

Has the Organized Farmers' Movement in Alberta Justified Its Existence?

A REVIEW OF THE HISTORY AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF
THE UNITED FARMERS OF ALBERTA

By NORMAN F. PRIESTLEY

On August 22nd the votes of the farm people of Alberta will be the principal factor in deciding whether the Farmers' Government which they first placed in office in 1921 through the organization which they themselves built up and own and democratically control, shall again be returned to power or whether it shall be replaced by the political party which the people of Alberta rejected in 1921, or by the new party, centrally controlled from Calgary by the advisory council of six city men without knowledge or experience of the problems of the primary industry, who have been appointed by the leader of the party.

A careful consideration of the matters set forth in the review of the history and achievements of primary producers of Alberta published below will, we believe, place the issue in the forthcoming election beyond any shadow of doubt. We do not believe that any Alberta farm man or woman, realizing the nature of their own past accomplishment, and the possibilities of future progress if they keep their ranks unbroken, will lightly cast away what has been won or sow the seeds of disintegration in the farm movement which has more to its credit, and which throughout the years has attained a greater degree of solidarity, than any similar movement on the North American continent.

WILLIAMS BROTHERS

Mail Order Merchants

117 - 10th Avenue West

CALGARY

-

ALBERTA

If you are not receiving one of our catalogues, write to us for one to-day. Our catalogue consists of full lines of Groceries, Hardware, Harness, Paints, Auto Tires, Auto Accessories, Men's Work Shirts, Shoes, etc.

We carry a complete line of merchandise for the farm and farm homes, including Floor Coverings and Bedding.

Our new catalogue will be off the press in a short time. If you do not receive one, write to us at once.

If you live in the city we would be glad if you would call at the store at 117 - 10th Avenue West.

FARMERS, *Attention!*

GENERAL ELECTRIC RADIO

AT THE LOWEST PRICES IN RADIO HISTORY

A Modern 4-Tube Super-Heterodyne which covers all
Standard Broadcasts

Excellent Performance

\$44.95

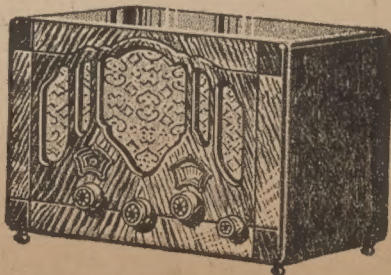
(Less Batteries)

Write for full descriptive pamphlet.

CANADIAN GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY

LIMITED

CALGARY or EDMONTON
Alberta



Has the Organized Farmers' Movement of Alberta Justified Its Existence?



THIS review is issued to refresh the memories of U.F.A. workers and supply them with authoritative information on their own organization and to place some facts before other farmers and citizens who may be indifferent or even adverse to the U.F.A. It is hoped that greater numbers of the farm people of Alberta will realize the value of organization and become members of the United Farmers of Alberta, and give the organization's varied activities their fullest support.

History.—In the City of Edmonton in January, 1909, two pioneer organizations, the Canadian Society of Equity and the Alberta Farmers' Association, which had been at work somewhat competitively for several years, were brought together and formed the U.F.A.

At the end of the first year there were 122 Locals scattered throughout the Province with a membership of 2,147 men.

In 1913 the constitution was amended to admit women into the organization on an equality with men. In 1915 the women met in separate convention and set up a branch of the organization with the name United Farm Women of Alberta.

During the last years of the Great War, there were a number of local Junior clubs in operation throughout the Province, but it was not until 1919 that the Provincial Junior Branch was set up.

Organization.—Both the U.F.W.A. and Junior U.F.A. operate under the general constitution of the organization. They elect their own officers and board with directors for each federal constituency of the Province, covering the work of organization in the same manner as the men.

The membership of the organization in the fifteen years since 1920 has averaged 16,602; the peak year being 1921 when the number enrolled was 37,721.

The influence of the U.F.A. has been, and is, far greater than membership figures would lead anyone to believe. Below are listed some of the outstanding achievements of the Association.

Some Achievements.—We have:

Organized as many as 1,200 local groups of farmers for their own mutual help.

Co-ordinated these groups into district and constituency organizations.

Held annual conventions for twenty-five years at which the ideas of the organized farmers have been sifted and expressed in resolutions.

Secured beneficial legislation embodying many of these resolutions, from the Provincial Legislature and the Dominion Parliament.

Elected representatives to Legislature and Parliament at successive general elections since 1921 and maintained a Government at Edmonton since that year.

Assisted materially in directing public opinion throughout Canada towards more effective democracy, and economic and social justice.

Initiated and developed co-operative enterprises; e.g., the Alberta Wheat Pool, the dairy, livestock and poultry co-operatives which have their counterpart in many countries wherever the agricultural industry has been organized effectively.

Entered the field of consumer co-operation, saving large sums of money for farmers in the purchase of farm supplies.

Created valuable property in the farming areas by promoting the building of halls for public and association purposes, establishing fairgrounds, clearing bush, breaking ground, planting trees, setting aside and beautifying picnic grounds, cemeteries, athletic grounds, etc.

Raised the intelligence level of the community by assisting governments and university authorities in circulating libraries, holding lectures and demonstrations, etc.

Contributed to the advance of agricultural science by organizing better seed contests and fairs, calf and swine clubs and egg laying contests, etc.

Organized farmers to meet emergencies, making representations to the Provincial Government concerning the need of relief for seed and feed and free freight.

Helped to fuse into a more united citizenry people from many lands, of many religious persuasions and varied political traditions.

Participated in the cultural development of the community by organizing debates, concerts, plays, chautauquas, religious services, etc.

CO-OPERATIVE ENTERPRISES

The energy and enterprise of the farmers of Alberta, chiefly under the direction of the U.F.A., has been embodied in a number of business enterprises of various kinds; e.g., co-operative retail stores, hay growers', seed and potato growers' associations, etc.

Chief among these is the Alberta Wheat Pool which now has some 435 local elevators providing co-operative marketing facilities in almost every farming area of the Province in addition to terminal elevators owned or leased at Vancouver, Victoria and Prince Rupert. The value of this organization, which arose out of the U.F.A. and has worked in close co-operation with the U.F.A. since its inception, can be judged partially from the fact that the backing of the Province of Alberta has been given to it and that the Dominion Government used its marketing machinery in an effort to stabilize conditions in the wheat market during the years following 1930.

Co-operative dairying is another field in which the efforts of our members have met with a considerable degree of success. The Alberta Dairy Pool, with its four units at Calgary, Edmonton, Alix and Wetaskiwin, is one of the most successful co-operative enterprises in Canada. In spite of the fact that they were launched in difficult times and had barely set up their machinery when the "depression" struck agriculture, they have made a splendid showing, paying the full market price for cream and milk and steadily paying off their indebtedness for capital expenditure. In a few years' time there is every probability that the farmers of this Province will own this set of splendid modern dairies outright. In 1934 the Alix members of the Dairy Pool paid its last cent of indebtedness and burned its mortgage.

Despite disastrous market conditions our livestock shipping associations still exert much influence in that field and provide a basis in Alberta of a comprehensive scheme, which, under the Dominion Natural Products Marketing Act, will enable livestock producers to eliminate waste and overlapping from their industry and secure more of the consumers' dollars for themselves.

Many other examples of co-operation promoted by the U.F.A. can be given. Perhaps the most outstanding of the local efforts is the Southern Alberta Co-operative Association with headquarters in Lethbridge, with a membership of about 2,000 farmers, selling livestock, hay, etc., to the extent of nearly a million dollars in one year. Another such successful organization is the Pincher Creek Hay Growers' Co-operative.

The various co-operative enterprises launched through the U.F.A. have not been uniformly successful because of the forces of world economy, but they parallel somewhat the efforts of the business interests at organization in the field of industry and commerce, providing farmers effective weapons in the competitive struggle and giving them experience in commercial organization. They will form

the basis for much future activity no matter what political changes may take place. In recent years a consumers' co-operative movement has been organized and Central Office has assisted in the setting up of some 20 district organizations of U.F.A. Locals. These have handled the principal bulk commodities used on the farm and have saved many thousands of dollars for the farm people in doing so. In addition, these activities have had the effect of reducing the price level of these goods to a point more in keeping with the extremely low prices farmers are receiving for their products; and have given training to hundreds of local workers in the technique of merchandising.

POLITICAL ACTIVITY

Many of the objectives of the U.F.A. in past years have been attained and then taken for granted or forgotten. Some of these are here set forth, recognizing that the organized farmers of other Provinces have played their part with us in securing these benefits.

Some have questioned the wisdom of the United Farmers of Alberta participating in politics as an organization by putting candidates in the field for the Alberta Legislative Assembly and the Dominion House of Commons. The record of the two groups which have carried the banner of the organization in those two fields of activity will bear the keenest scrutiny. Farmers and other citizens of the Province have expressed their satisfaction in the two Provincial general elections since 1921 by returning substantially the same number of U.F.A. representatives to the Alberta Legislature in 1926 and in 1930, and in the Federal field have followed a similar course in three general elections, 1925, 1926 and 1930.

ACME LIVESTOCK MINERAL SUPPLEMENT

A practical, complete Mineral Supplement for Livestock

Prices: Sack lots.....	\$4.75 cwt.
5 sack lots.....	\$4.25 cwt.
Ton lots.....	\$4.00 cwt.

Write for descriptive folder.

**ACME LIVESTOCK MINERAL FEED CO.,
P.O. Box 417, Calgary**

REPRESENTATION AT OTTAWA

The activities of the Federal Group at Ottawa these past fourteen years have formed the basis of the present C.C.F. Movement which is, without doubt, the greatest reform force in Canada. This seems to be claiming much, but there can be no question, whether or not the C.C.F. succeeds in securing the reins of power, but that it has made the question of social control of finance and industry, etc., the paramount question in Canadian politics. If there had been no U.F.A. or if the U.F.A. had created no Central organization, this would have been an unrealized dream so far as the farmers of Alberta are concerned.

The U.F.A. Group at Ottawa, has:

Urged legislation embodied in the Canada Grain Act and its amendments.

Brought about a minimizing of the deductions for "waste," "cleaning," etc., made by elevator companies.

Fought for the retention of the Crows' Nest pass freight rates on flour and grain, saving for each farmer shipping wheat over four cents a bushel from July 1922, to date. This has meant about five million dollars a year to the grain growers of Alberta.

Secured substantial reductions in local freight rates at the time of the famous Western Freight Rates Case and at other times since then, especially in the case of seed grain.

Prevented the arbitrary fixing of the price of wheat in 1917 at \$1.30 per bushel as suggested by Sir Geo. E. Foster, the price being subsequently set at \$2.21 per bushel for a crop of 211,953,100 bushels.

Pressed for the return of the Natural Resources to Alberta.

Continually placed before the House the conditions of agriculture and asked for a square deal.

Supported the report from committee of Agriculture recommending that the Government take whatever steps it might deem necessary to prevent a drastic decline in the price paid to producers for wheat, especially during the fall months when the bulk of the wheat is being marketed.

Supported a motion to have the price of gasoline in Canada investigated by the Banking and Commerce Committee.

Recommended that revenue be secured and the burden equalized from income rather than by commodity taxation.

Supported the increase of Federal payments for Old Age Pensions.

Pioneered the way in demanding the establishing of a publicly-owned central bank for Canada, enabling national control of banking, currency and credit.

Recommended that banks be penalized for charging more than the maximum rate of interest of 7 per cent.

Recommended by resolution that Public Works be financed by direct Dominion note issue.

Moved on third reading of Bank of Canada Bill that it be Government owned and controlled.

Advocated many amendments, some successfully, to the Bank of Canada Bill.

Supported the Government's expenditure of 40 million dollars for public works free of interest.

Moved an amendment to the Interest Act to limit interest to 5 per cent.

Recommended by resolution that the business of life insurance should be nationalized.

Severely criticized the Government's sound money policy, and advocated the devaluing of the dollar under scientific control.

Supported the idea of the issue and redemption of Dominion notes without relation to gold reserve.

Introduced a bill to give the Provinces the same privileges as the banks in making use of the Finance Act.

Called for and obtained an investigation into the Beauharnois Power Corporation with worthwhile results.

Advocated and obtained better coal rates from Alberta to Ontario.

Recommended a system of Intermediate Farm Loans. Considered by Committee.

Recommended that the tariff on motor trucks correspond with that on agricultural machinery.

Proposed a grant to Provinces in aid of Full Time Health Units.

Proposed the continuation of Federal grant for technical education.

Strongly opposed heavy increases in tariffs in 1930.

Advocated the establishment of a National Council of Social and Economic Research.

Supported the bonus of 5c bushel on wheat.

Always taken a keen interest in Soldier Settlement affairs.

Supported proposed exchange of Canadian cattle for petroleum products with Russia.

Opposed the embargo against Russian goods put on by Order-in-Council.

Supported unanimously the Government Marketing Board legislation.

Gave support to the Government and suggested some amendments in passing the Farmers' Creditors' Arrangement Act.

The U.F.A. membership throughout the Province and large numbers of people in other walks of life regard the work of the group at Ottawa under the chairmanship of our President, Robert Gardiner, M.P., as an outstanding contribution to progress of incalculable value to the life of the whole Dominion.

THE GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA

The U.F.A. Government at Edmonton, under the successive premierships of Hon. Herbert Greenfield, Hon. J. E. Brownlee and Hon. R. G. Reid, has established an enviable record for honesty, efficiency and progressive outlook. Within the limits of the powers conferred upon the Province by the B.N.A. Act, the constitution of Canada, very considerable advance has been made towards the establishment of a more equitable and just society embodying the old U.F.A. slogan "Equal Rights for all and special privileges to none."

Some of the outstanding facts concerning the United Farmer Government since 1921 are set forth below.

The Government has:

Sold the Northern Railways for more than \$25,000,000, a sum several million dollars in excess of terms acceptable to critics of the Government.

Concluded satisfactory deal with the Dominion Government for taking control of the natural resources of the Province; including a further cash allowance for alienated lands of over \$6,000,000 to be paid in 1935.

Placed the civil service on a sound non-partisan basis including the establishment of a superannuation scheme.

Reduced the number of permanent Government employees by 251 persons since 1921 notwithstanding the setting up of a new department to handle the natural resources and machinery to administer relief and other new services.

Set up a plan for highway and road development free from the evils of party patronage.

Extended the standard highways according to this plan by more than 2,000 miles, of which 70 miles were hard surfaced and 2,113 miles gravelled as at January, 1935.

Assisted municipal districts to develop a secondary highway system and market road feeders.

Helped by agricultural policies to establish Alberta farmers in high place among agriculturists throughout the world by fostering competitions in grain and livestock, etc. (The farmer exhibitors of Alberta have won 2,770 prizes including almost 150 championships at international shows in the past thirteen years.)

Established a nation-wide reputation for honesty and efficiency in administration, thereby being placed in a position to obtain money for the carrying on of the public services at a lower cost than any other Province in the West, with resulting large savings to the taxpayers.

FARMERS ATTENTION!

In order to be assured of the best possible returns, ship your cream, eggs, and poultry to our plant in Calgary.

We have a very fine plant, with fully qualified dairymen in charge of each particular phase of the business.

SOUTHERN ALBERTA DAIRY POOL LIMITED

CALGARY

-

ALBERTA

WILLSON STATIONERY CO. LTD. COMPLETE OFFICE OUTFITTERS

Exceptional Value in all School Supplies

Ask for our Special Price List.

A Full Line of Fountain Pens carried.

Cut your Duplicating Costs in half with a Ditto Machine

323 - 8th AVENUE WEST

M3984

M7767

BUY FROM

HARDWARE-TERIA
AT THE SIGN OF THE SAW

122 8th Avenue East—Opp. Strand Theatre—M2855, M9855
THE STORE OF HIGH STANDARD QUALITY

Maintained a high standard of educational efficiency throughout the Province by providing through a system of equalization grants for all weak rural districts, practically doubling the number of pupils attending school eight months of the year since 1921.

Introduced legislation for, and put into actual operation the most advanced program of public health in any Province of Canada, including provision for district health units, travelling clinics, district nurses, public health education, the enactment of the Health Insurance Act., etc.

Contributed to the economic security of the people by old age pensions, mothers' allowances, agricultural and unemployment relief, at the highest rates in Canada to the amount of many millions each year.

Made provision for the consolidation of arrears of taxes over a period of years.

Placed the credit of the Province behind the co-operative marketing activities of the farmers, e.g. the Alberta Wheat Pool and the Dairy Pools, etc.

Urged upon the Dominion Government measures to set up a National Wheat Board; a national board to handle other products of agriculture; machinery to reduce private debts, e.g. now provided by the Farmers' Creditors' Arrangements Act; national control of currency and credit through a publicly owned central bank; the refunding at lower interest rates of our public debt; lower rates of interest, etc.

Effected all-round economies in administration without reducing efficiency or impairing the essential services;

Passed legislation and enacted regulations to protect the people of Alberta from fraudulent stock selling practices, leading the way in Canada in bringing the penalties of the law upon millionaires guilty of defrauding the public.

Adopted the principle of income tax graduated to progressively exact more from the higher range of incomes.

Carried on two general elections without secret campaign funds and the evils of the party patronage system which accompany it.

Protected the farming industry of Alberta from disastrous liquidation and its people from eviction during the years since 1930 by Debt Adjustment legislation and the Agricultural Industry Stabilization Act, entitling the farmer to his living and medical attention, repairs to machinery, seed, etc., as a first claim upon production.

CENTRAL ORGANIZATION

The following is a brief resume of some of the things which are done by our organization through Head Office:

At U.F.A. headquarters in Calgary is a General Office, the U.F.A. Central Co-operative Association, and a newspaper department issuing a weekly, *The United Farmer*, each having a staff devoting their whole time and attention to the promotion of the farm organization and the strengthening of the position of the farmers in Alberta. From eight to ten thousand personal letters are answered each year, covering many problems and difficulties in many instances giving information which would cost money for legal advice, etc. Representations are made concerning agricultural interest before boards such as railway commissioners and grain commissioners and other governing bodies. Close contact is kept with governing authorities in the Provincial and Federal fields. Information is gathered and sent out to leaders of the farm movement throughout the Province.

There are about 1,000 Locals of the U.F.A., U.F.W.A. and Juniors. Though in some places these are small and but a fraction of the rural population, in other districts they cover over 90 per cent, in a few nearly 100 per cent. For these, suggestive programs are prepared; briefs gathered; pamphlets issued and books kept and sold; district conferences organized; speakers on social, educational, economic and political topics procured from time to time. In some instances the Central Office acts as trustee of funds and in a few cases of property.

The various meetings held throughout the Province in Locals, district associations, constituency conventions and the great annual conventions, since 1909, at which the opinions and convictions of farmers have been expressed, sifted and consolidated into resolutions and policies, constitute, in the opinion of many, the greatest work undertaken by this Association.

The sceptic may sneer, but farmers in other parts of the world who see what has been done look at Alberta with longing eyes and seek to copy our methods. The days of individualism are past, or passing. If the farmers are to be anything but hewers of wood and drawers of water for the rest of the world, they must organize and organize still more. Every resident of Alberta, whether a farmer or an urban dweller, has reason to be proud of the fact that Alberta has such an organization as the U.F.A.

PUBLICITY AND EDUCATION

For the past fourteen years one of the chief functions of Central office has been to issue a paper devoted to the interests of the association. Prior to May, 1934, the paper was in magazine form and was called *The U.F.A.* It was issued fortnightly for many years and for a period, only monthly. In 1934 it was decided to change the form and to a certain extent the content and it is now issued as a weekly newspaper entitled *The United Farmer* giving news of the world and featuring the economic and political situation in Alberta and Canada, carrying items of interest to all members of the farm home. This paper has made a place of real influence for itself throughout rural Alberta. It has been acknowledged as a valuable medium of education and information and is quoted by journals in many parts of the world.

The U.F.A. Central Office has a literature department and a circulating library through which many thousands of books and pamphlets have been sold and distributed.

Organizing farm people for the furtherance of their many interests is a complex and large undertaking. The United Farmers of Alberta are seeking to impart the co-operative philosophy and to promote the practice of co-operation first of all among farm people and then the entire community. The key to the whole situation is activity around the local school house, community hall or other meeting place. Undoubtedly the life of the people of Alberta has been greatly enriched by the innumerable local gatherings held and local efforts made in the name of the U.F.A. None will ever be able to place full value on the work done by the many hundreds of U.F.A., U.F.W.A. and Junior Locals during the years since these organizations were first launched in Alberta.

Organization resulting in combination of effort, in social solidarity, in more efficient productive and distributive machinery and in a general rise in standards of living both material and cultural is worthy of the imitation, approval and support of every right-minded citizen. With the increasing complexity of modern civilization there will continue to be a place of usefulness and power for our farm organization—

THE UNITED FARMERS OF ALBERTA

Throughout the Province of Alberta farm people in increasing numbers are rallying to the standard of their own organization. People who have been somewhat indifferent to the U.F.A., many even who have been against us in times past are recognizing the value of organization and have become interested in what we are doing. Earnest and deep thinking men and women who know something of the onward march of social and economic forces are proud of the fact that the U.F.A has not been swept off its feet by the unrest of the past five years. They recognize that it is one thing to be keen for reform and that it is another thing to have knowledge and understanding, so that amid the confusion of voices and theories and plans a definite direction is kept and a recognized goal sought.

Butchers & Packers Supplies Ltd.

"EVERYTHING FOR THE BUTCHER"

SCALES, SAUSAGE MACHINERY, BUTCHER KNIVES,

CASH REGISTERS, MEAT CURING COMPOUNDS

SAFES, SHOWCASES

702 CENTRE STREET, CALGARY

M4533

: : : : :

M5034

SHEET MUSIC

We Carry a Most Complete Stock of All Popular and
Standard Sheet Music and Students' Supplies.
Special Mail Orders Given Prompt Attention.

Also

STEINWAY, MATTHEWS

—and—

MASON & RISCH PIANOS

**Moffat's
Gas
Stoves**



Together with Fine Vio-
lins, Guitars, Banjos, Sax-
ophones, Strings, and
Bows, etc.

Victor and Westinghouse
Radios, Refrigerators and
Electrical Appliances.

Easy Terms arranged at
CALGARY'S QUALITY PIANO AND ELECTRICAL STORE

THE
Matthews Music House
LIMITED

328 EIGHTH AVENUE WEST

U.F.A. BROADCASTING PROGRAM

LISTEN IN TO THESE BROADCASTS

During the pre-election period an intensified radio program has been arranged, as follows:

Wednesday, August 14th—CJCA—8:15 to 8:30 p.m.

Wednesday, August 14th—CFCN—8:15 to 8:30 p.m.

Thursday, August 15th—CJCA—8:15 to 8:30 p.m.

Thursday, August 15th—CFCN—8:15 to 8:30 p.m.

Friday, August 16th—CFCN—8:15 to 8:30 p.m.

Wednesday, August 21st—CJCA—6:30 to 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, August 21st—CFAC—6:30 to 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, August 21st—CFCN—8:05 to 8:30 p.m.

Wednesday, August 21st—CJCA—11:30 to 12:00 p.m.

Wednesday, August 21st—CFAC—11:30 to 12:00 p.m.

Wednesday, August 21st—CJOC—11:30 to 12:00 p.m.

Vote 1
for the
U.F.A. Candidate
on
August 22nd

